

Hoggy Bottom News

Vol. 8 No. 8

THE VOICE OF FOGGY BOTTOM

April 1964

PETER AND MARIANTHIE MELLONAS SAIL FOR GREECE

Peter and Marianthie Mellonas, co-owners of Foggy Bottom's oldest neighborhood restaurant and bar, decided recently to retire from the firm and turn the business over to other members of the family. Peter and Marianthie sailed for Greece on the SS Olympia Friday, April 10, to land



at Perea a week later, then proceed to their home province of Macedonia for a long vacation. They plan to return to Washington in October.

Meantime the restaurant, which resembles an English pub or a Greek coffee house, will continue to welcome old customers -- and new ones -- as usual. George, Peter's brother and partner since the restaurant was established at 2514 L Street in 1935, will remain in the new setup, as of course will Polixeni, his wife, who will do her part as hostess. Associated with the elder Mellonas are two young men -- Stergios Markopoulos, Peter's nephew, and George Margarites, the son-in-law of George and Polixeni.

The restaurant began as hardly more than a hole-in-the-wall, about one fourth of the space of the present premises, which, by the way, the Mellonas family now own outright. In the early days, and not so long ago, for that matter, the elder Mellonas' did all the work on an 18-hour stint. Marianthie doubled as waitress and barmaid, Peter and George did the rest. But they had "Pop" Harris, who passed away this year at the age of 78, as barman for the

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N E X T

MONDAY, APRIL
Pillsbury Hall, St. Louis
2430 K

P R O

The Foggy Bottom
will present an evening
beginning

last 15 years, and their chef has been at the restaurant for 10 years. Waitress Lee Bryant has worked at the restaurant for 14 years, Rose Stegos for 5, and Carol Robert for 4.

The retiring Mellonas' both came to this country from their native Greece when they were youthful; they met and were married in Baltimore on October 25, 1931. When they return to their former home in Greece they will find few immediate relatives. Peter has three sisters still living there. Marian-thie one sister.

Some of the regular guests at Foggy Bottom's one and only pub, Mellonas', say that Marianthie is "Foggy Bottom's hostess with the mostest", our own Perle Mesta. The Mellonas' have always belonged to the Foggy Bottom Association and their restaurant has supported THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS with an advertisement in every issue since it began. Up until this year the Mellonas' furnished the coffee that was usually served at meetings of the Association, and Marianthie always attended when possible.

Sometimes called "Mary" by her customers at the restaurant, Marianthie prefers to be known by her full name, which combines the saint's name of Mary with a Greek word which means "of flowers". The Mellonas' are members of the Greek Orthodox congregation.

It took Marianthie four tries to make it from Greece to America. She finally arrived on U. S. soil when she was 13 years old, having been sent by her par-

ents in Greece to an uncle in Baltimore. She met Peter, who had preceded her from Greece by a good many years, when he was working near her uncle's Baltimore home. They got to be friends that way, but they never 'dated', according to Marianthie, until they were engaged.

"That's the Greek way",
Marianthie explained.

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 27 - 8:00 P. M.

Pillsbury Hall, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2430 K Street, N. W.

PROGRAM

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 * FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION OFFICERS *

* President William L. Simon *
 * Vice President Walter S. Boardman *
 * Secretary Evelyn H. Larson *
 * Treasurer Elizabeth B. Winspear *
 * Executive *
 * Committee Mrs. Lloyd Dutch *
 * Harriet Gruger *
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 * COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN *

* District Affairs Alexander E. Wiskup *
 * Membership Rufus Lisle *
 * Program Bernice Teuteberg *
 * Public Relations J. C. (Pat) Patterson *

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 * Relations Committee. NEWS mailing address: *
 * 2429 Eye Street, N. W. - Telephone 333-7837 or *
 * 337-5817. All copy required by 10th of month. *

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month, the members present at the meeting of the Association were given forms on which to indicate their attitudes toward the position, "No more commercial or high-rise apartments should be permitted in Foggy Bottom". Three-quarters of the people who responded indicated agreement with this statement.

Those who agreed were further asked to indicate whether they thought action to carry this out should be in terms of working with the City Government on ways to prevent further commercial and high-rise construction; or whether it should be directed toward getting home owners to sign agreements not to sell to developers. All who responded to this part marked the former choice. None favored the second choice exclusively, though several thought efforts should be made along both lines.

The write-in seems to be a big thing these days, and we had our share. Among the comments deciphered from the tops, bottoms, margins and backs of these forms were suggestions that we investigate the possibility of "down-zoning" parts of the area to R-4, the row-house zoning; and that we work on developing a comprehensive plan for Foggy Bottom. Both of these are good suggestions that we hope to act on in the coming months.

For those who indicated concern about the future of Pennsylvania Avenue, we'd like to make it clear that

the Association will not take any action that would stand in the way of needed improvements there. (The recent proposal to construct a commercial building on the northwest corner of 25th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue was not opposed by the Association.)

The results of this poll will serve as a guide to aid the FBA in working to make Foggy Bottom the kind of neighborhood you want it to be.

William L. Simon
 President, FBA

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
 Bernice Teuteberg, Chairman

Our April 27 meeting will be a combination of business and pleasure; emphasis admittedly on pleasure. Starting at approximately 8:30 our meeting time will be devoted to a program of baroque music by our Foggy Bottom Chamber Music Group. Members of the group are: Charlotte Eisler, harpsichord; Bernard Mason, violin; and Joel Wheeler, recorder.

Charlotte Eisler, at whose Foggy Bottom apartment they meet, is founder of the group. She has given a full-length piano recital in Washington, appeared as guest pianist with the Agriculture Symphony Orchestra four times, and once as the guest artist with the Arlington Symphony Orchestra. She has accompanied instrumentalists and vocalists at the National Gallery, Barker Hall, and other Washington auditoriums. She is an Agriculture budget analyst.

Bernard Mason, violinist, is professor of orchestral instruments at Howard. He took his Bachelor of Music degree at Oberlin Conservatory and his Masters at the University of Michigan. An ardent chamber music player, he enjoys string quartet work.

Joel Wheeler, recorder player, has appeared in a number of concerts of early music here -- 3 sponsored by Smithsonian Institution, 3 by the Washington Recorder Society, several in Virginia and Maryland, and one at the Phillips Gallery.

If he is available that night, an oboeist will be included as the fourth member of the group.

Our Foggy Bottom Chamber Music Group is well-known in Washington music circles. Paul Hume, when invited to our meeting, was enthusiastic in his comments about the group and stated that he will be present for the musical portion of our meeting if at all possible. We hope to see all of you at the meeting on the 27th.

PAT PATTERS ON

About the tremendous turnout at the March meeting and the frankness with which the speakers informed us of the traffic plans for Foggy Bottom

About the pink Easter egg Helen Glendening found on her doorstep ... and no trace of the "bunny"

About the directional service offered by Water Gate Inn during the construction and/or destruction of the roads in the Bottom when calling for reservations one receives information on the best route to follow to get there on that particular day

About feature editor Charley Rogers' receiving fan mail from cats ... one while he was in England and just recently one from "Miss Michele" whom he had featured in the March NEWS

About the oversight in not listing HELEN MARIE FRUTH, 925 - 25th Street, as a paid-up member of the Association in both the December and March issues of the NEWS ... our apologies to her

About how difficult it is to get in and out of the area by automobile these days

About the number of early risers in the Bottom many are walking their dogs, heading for work, etc. before 6 A. M.

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DICKY GALLERY'S APRIL EXHIBITION

The current (through May 1) exhibition at the Dickey Gallery -- 2133 Pennsylvania Avenue -- serves that part of the Gallery's program which is designed to introduce new artists to the Washington community.

This exhibition illustrates two significant things about the cultural life of Washington: one is that beneath the strata of well-known professional artists there are innumerable persons of talent and sensitivity who though they have other careers, contribute their painting to the enrichment of the lives of those around them; the other is that creative effort in Washington is not confined to any one particular area of the city.

The artists exhibiting in this show represent respectively each of the four sections of the Washington grid. Though their careers are diverse - teaching, entertainment, publishing and commercial design - each has studied seriously and has been well trained as an artist. Their art represents an important part of their lives as well as an important contribution to the life of Washington.

Exhibiting artists are: Gail Mercey, Northwest; Tony Taylor, Northeast; Daniel Millsaps, Southeast; and Evelyn Brodzinsky, Southwest. Warren Robbins is Guest Director. Hours are 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., Tuesday - Saturday. Sunday hours: 2 to 5 P.M.

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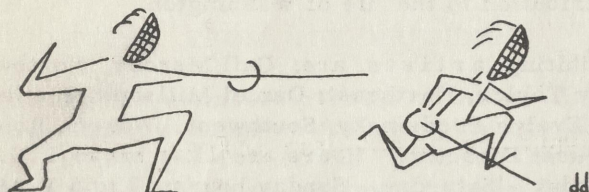
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RECREATION DEPARTMENT EXTENDS HOURS

Now that spring is here the D. C. Recreation Department has extended its hours to accommodate the many people interested in outdoor activities. Picnic kits which are packed full of sports equipment may be borrowed for a 24 hour period. Also available are free permits for use of the tennis courts throughout the city and picnic areas in the District Parks. Be sure to make reservations early for the picnic sites and kits.

Permits are issued at the D. C. Recreation Department, 3149 - 16th Street, N. W., Monday through Friday, from 8:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. The office will be open on Saturday from 9:00 A. M. to 1:00 P. M. through April 25 and from 8:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. from May 2 through September 5.

For further information, call Vivian M. Hunt at the Information Office, D. C. Recreation Department, ADams 4-2050, extension 30.



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ART EXHIBIT TO BE HELD AT
 D & W MARKET APRIL 26

Artists in Paris exhibit and sell their own paintings on the Left Bank of the Seine.... and Foggy Bottom Artists have chosen to exhibit their works of art on the Left Bank of Rock Creek.

The space around D & W Market, 26th and K Streets, will be covered with works of art between 11 A. M. and 5 P. M. (Eastern Daylight Saving Time -- which goes into effect that morning) on April 26.

Artists wishing to exhibit their works should contact Bill Paul -- at D & W -- as soon as possible so that arrangements for hanging space, etc. can be made, and details given to the participants.

Hours, again, are 11 A. M. to 5 P. M. (EDST) and all Bottomites are cordially invited to the exhibit on April 26. There will be a number of Foggy Bottom Artists exhibiting, as well as other Washingtonians.

 Phone: FE 8-3377
Marg-Ann Beauty Salon
 2428 Eye St., N.W.
 "In Foggy Bottom"
 Washington, D.C.





NEWEST FOGGY BOTTOM RESTORATION

Grace, beauty and convenience are three words that come to mind as you walk thru the two 'new' houses at 2511 and 2513 Eye Street. These houses represent the latest restorations designed by Architect Melita Rodeck and executed by Jerry Fitzgerald.

Eye Street residents have noticed the improvements which will tie their block into a package of multi-colored row fronts. With a sensitive and sure eye, Miss Rodeck added a bay window to the smaller of the two houses, so that it would complement the bay window of the larger one. She also balanced the bay windows with Federal entrances and iron steps.

Miss Rodeck has a penchant for bringing beauty out of almost anything (including polyethylene soap containers and tin cans) and putting all space to work. Both talents were used in the four apartments which are now almost ready for occupancy. Each apart-

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ment has separate heating and air conditioning units and there is plenty of storage in addition to walk-in closets in the bedrooms.

Each apartment at 2511 has a large brick fireplace with tile hearths. The kitchens show a woman's insight of utility and beauty at the same time. Fenced private patios add visual depth to the dining areas. Color schemes, lighting fixtures and finish materials were selected to underscore spaciousness and to assure quick and easy maintenance.

Mr. Fitzgerald is responsible for many restorations in the Bottom. Miss Rodeck has restored numerous homes not only in Foggy Bottom but in other parts of the city, too. Both agree that it is important to continue Foggy Bottom's restoration program to maintain the residential and homelike character of the area.

These two old-time Bottomites also point out what every good city planner does: There is a need for a diversified neighborhood so that there will be a blending of points of view and cultures. "Foggy Bottom needs the young and the old, the rich and the not-so-rich, and it also needs career and family groups."

On your next stroll, drop by Foggy Bottom's newest restoration; you'll enjoy the sight and you might pick up some ideas for your own house!

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THE AREA'S FINEST

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The riverfront entrance to the U. S. Naval Historical Display Center in Building 76 of the Washington Navy Yard. On left side of entrance is the anchor from Admiral Farragut's famous flagship, USS HARTFORD. On the right is the anchor from the aircraft carrier USS ANZIO.

(Official Navy Photograph)

THE NAVAL HISTORICAL DISPLAY CENTER by: Grace Hamrick, Historical Research Writer

A new neighbor in another old section of the City is the U. S. Naval Historical Display Center located in Building 76 on the waterfront of the Washington Navy Yard (previously known as the Naval Gun Factory and more recently as the Naval Weapons Plant). Since its establishment in mid-1961, the Naval Historical Display Center has been actively engaged in collecting, restoring and displaying relics and memorabilia which links us to the past.

The building which houses this naval museum is steeped in history itself, the original portion having been constructed some 33 years prior to the outset of the Civil War and used for manufacturing naval ordnance for ships of the old Navy. The selection of the Washington Navy Yard, which was founded in 1799 and is one of the oldest military installations

in the country, was particularly appropriate for this new museum which traces the growth of the Navy from its inception in 1775 as George Washington's Continental Navy to the present nuclear powered fleet of the 60's.

The many ever-expanding displays at the Naval Historical Display Center are arranged in chronological order, beginning with an exhibit commemorating the Revolutionary War and, continuing in a counter-clockwise tour of the museum, concluding with artifacts of the present space age. Highlights of some of the exhibits include exquisitely detailed dioramas which dramatically portray historic naval engagements. The museum anticipates soon having taped explanations which will recount these imperishable events to the viewer.

Aside from the many exhibits depicting the wars in which the United States Navy has played a major

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role, there are various exhibits to appeal to persons of all interests. Models of ships and submarines of all periods appear throughout the building. A model of the crude Confederate submarine HUNLEY which sank five times during training carrying a total of 40 brave souls to their death appears in the Civil War exhibit and is the same model which was used on a recent "Great Adventure" television program. Other interesting exhibits include silver presented to ships by their sponsors -- a long-standing tradition in the Navy; commemorative medals; a French Empire "dolphin" sofa which was used on board the famous "Old Ironsides" (the first USS CONSTITUTION); the flag which draped one of the caskets of the three Unknowns buried in Arlington; some of the effects from the ill-fated steamer JEANETTE which was lost on an Arctic expedition in 1882; the fur boots and gloves worn by Admiral Richard E. Byrd on two of his early polar explorations; and many more things too numerous to mention here.

The Naval Historical Display Center is particularly proud to have on exhibit the last two weapons used against the United States in World War II (carbines surrendered by the Japanese at Anathan Island in the Marianas), as well as the U. S. Navy's own gun which fired the last round of World War II (a 5-inch 25-caliber mount removed from the submarine USS TRIGONE). Also commemorating a great moment of history is the plaque from the USS MISSOURI that covered the place on her deck on which the instrument of surrender of World War II was signed on September 2, 1945.

While plans are continuously underway to create new displays and expand present ones, personnel of the Display Center attempt to capture and portray through exhibits epoch-making events as they happen. There is, for example, an exhibit depicting the tragic loss of the nuclear-powered submarine USS THRESHER when she mysteriously plunged to the bottom of the Atlantic on April 10, 1963 with 129 officers, enlisted men and civilians. Also, the late Commander-in-Chief John F. Kennedy is likewise

accorded a well-deserved place of honor in the museum for his role as a former naval officer who succeeded to the Presidency.

It is the objective of the Naval Historical Display Center to become increasingly of interest to service personnel and to the general public. One of the displays which soon will be completed is a case which will contain uniforms of famous naval officers from John Paul Jones of the Revolutionary period to the brilliant Admiral Chester W. Nimitz of World War II renown.

While the Naval Historical Display Center has not yet been officially dedicated, the public is cordially invited to visit on any week day between the hours of 1 and 4 p.m. The Display Center is always open on the occasional weekends visiting ships hold "open house". In addition, the Center will be open May 9-10 to celebrate Armed Forces Day.

O'NEIL-ALBERT ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Captain (USN) and Mrs. Vernon P. O'Neil of 2475 Virginia Avenue announce the engagement of their daughter, Mogi Kinsey O'Neil to Mr. Larry John Albert, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Albert of Silver Spring, Maryland. The wedding will be in Western Presbyterian Church on June thirteenth, 1964.

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FROM OUR CHURCHES

CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN MARTYR

Pennsylvania Avenue and 25th Street

Since November 22, 1963 the Large Portal Stained Glass Window at the entrance of St. Stephen Martyr Church has been lighted each evening as a Memorial to the late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

It is interesting to note that this elliptical-shaped, colored glass window in the facade of St. Stephen's was executed by Gabriel Loire of Chartres, France. It represents the finest example of his work in this country. During the day it presents a beautiful panorama within the Church; and in the night its beauty is on the outside.

During the month of May, The Ladies of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary are sponsoring the daily recitation of the Rosary at 7 o'clock each evening. All are most welcome to come and pray with us! This devotion will be held in the Lourdes' Chapel of St. Stephen's Church.

Masses on the hour every Sunday from 6 - 11 A. M., and 12:10 and 12:55 P. M. High Masses every day at 6:30 and 7:30 A. M.

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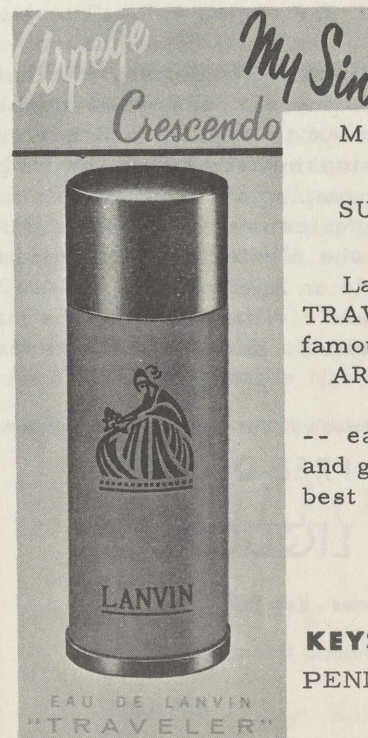
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